

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 MC-01

IGA-01 AID-05 XMB-02 COME-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-02 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /062 W

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R 300900Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1153

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS BEXP KE US

SUBJECT: REPORTED KENYAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING
HELICOPTERS FOR ARMY

1. FREDERICK WILCOX, BELL HELICOPTER REPRESENTATIVE IN KENYA, CALLED ON DCM JANUARY 29 TO REPORT POSSIBLE KENYAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING HELICOPTERS WORTH 10 MILLION DOLLARS AND TO ASK WHETHER U.S. GOVERNMENT FINANCING WOULD BE AVAILABLE IF U.S. HELICOPTERS PURCHASED. WILCOX SAID THAT UDI GECAGA, A PROMINENT KENYAN BUSINESSMAN, WAS SOURCE OF INFORMATION THAT KENYAN GOVERNMENT NOW CONSIDERING PURCHASING FRENCH OR AMERICAN TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS WORTH ABOUT 10\$MILLION DOLLARS FOR USE BY KENYAN ARMY.

2. DCM EXPLAINED THAT KENYA IS NOT AT PRESENT ELIGIBLE FOR MAP OR FMS CREDIT FINANCING OF MILITARY ACQUISITIONS. HOWEVER, WILCOX SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FROM BELL OFFICIAL IN U.S. THAT EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING COULD BE OBTAINED IF HELICOPTERS NOT ARMED AND IF RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT GIVES END USE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE USED FOR OFFENSIVE PURPOSES. MODELS WILCOX WOULD LIKE TO SELL KENYANS ARE BELL 205 OR 212 WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF TRANSPORTING UP TO 15 PERSONS.

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3. DCM TOLD WILCOX HE WOULD TRY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS
PURPOSE AND, IF SO, UNDER WHAT TERMS AND CONDITIONS.
PLEASE ADVISE.
MARSHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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